

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2013 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant: Kupu

Application ID: 13AC147007

Program Name: Hawaii Youth Conservation Corps

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

Reviewers' Summary Comments:

- (+) The application clearly demonstrates that there are environmental needs in the state that can be addressed by the proposed project; supportive information includes survey data from conservation organizations in the state that indicate they need additional human resources in order to complete conservation projects.
- (+) The applicant clearly links the information provided on the need in the state for individuals with higher education degrees for management level natural resource positions with the target youth population and plans for Members to gain environmental service experience.
- (+) The need related to economic opportunity is well documented. Documentation includes an Annie E. Casey Foundation report that indicates Hawaii has the 7th worst United States unemployment rate for the 16-19 year old population.
- (+) The applicant clearly demonstrates that there will be sufficient demand from the target population to fill the estimated Member positions for each of the proposed programs in the application. For each program, the applicant describes the number of applicants the program has received in the past for Member slots.
- (+) The applicant clearly describes why different types of slots are needed for the different project programs proposed. For example, the Frontier program will use minimum-time slots, target past program participants, and involve less direct supervision.
- (+) The applicant clearly demonstrates environmental project-related benefits to be derived from the project that would not be possible without Member contributions. Benefits include \$9.4 million in watershed improvements.
- (+) Environmental service-related activities are clearly described.
- (+) Past performance of proposed project strategies are clearly described in the application. The application includes information from survey tools that includes data highlighting that approximately 80% of program alumni continue to

volunteer within the community and 76% pursue a career in conservation or a related field.

(+) Environmental outcomes resulting from the project are clearly described. The anticipated amount of watershed and acres of land estimated to be cleared of invasive species are listed.

(+) The education outcomes of a targeted number of Members completing college level courses and those enrolling in higher education programs are clearly described. At least 75 Members will enroll in a college level class by the end of Year one, and by the end of Year three, at least 225 Members will be enrolled in a higher education program within a year of completing the program. Goals are based on data from previously completed programs.

(+) The application clearly justified the need for additional slots and continued funding as the amount of environmental service and the number of projects waiting to be completed is increasing.

(+) The application includes detailed information on how outcome data will be tracked and how performance targets were set. The applicant organization has existing survey tools that will be used to track performance indicators, and performance targets were set based on specific data from an existing program.

(-) Literature references for invasive species problems in the target population are not clearly described in the application.